

DUMMERSTON TOWN BOARDS JOINT MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2006

7:00PM

This special meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the Dummerston Town Meeting Space in the Center Church basement in Dummerston, Vermont.

In Attendance: Town Clerk Pam McFadden; Zoning Administrator Alan McBean; Cindy Jerome, Paul Normandeau, Kevin Ryan, Tom Bodett, and Lewis White of the Selectboard; Cindy Wilcox of the Planning Commission and the Development Review Board; Steve Mindel, Bob Wainwright, Elizabeth Catlin, and David Ryan of the Planning Commission; Lew Sorenson, Andrew McFarland, Pat Jaquith, Reg Rockefeller, and Herb Rest of the Development Review Board; and Bob Audette of the *Brattleboro Reformer*.

Kevin handed out information on the inclusion of town-related information on the *dummerston.com* website to all in attendance.

Alan initiated discussion on the local impact of home occupations and home businesses. Issues discussed included

- traffic, noise, and disruption, and their impacts on neighborhoods
- the need for uniformity in permitting
- the differences between home occupations and home businesses
- the possibility of sending out a questionnaire to better understand the nature of local home occupations/businesses
- the need to amend Section 605 of Dummerston's zoning ordinance to address home-based businesses, from which employees might regularly work off-site

The Planning Commission will start drafting changes to the Zoning ordinance. It was suggested a work session be held to which home business owners would be invited to discuss proposed changes.

Alan also moderated discussion on building permits, requirements, and how penalties are meaningfully assessed.

Tom gave an update on the progress of the Broadband Internet Availability project. He displayed a map which illustrated the current state of highspeed Internet access, as determined by the survey results submitted by Town residents. He also introduced information and fielded questions on the most recent initiative to pursue establishment of area-wide wireless Internet access.

The topic of Affordable Housing was discussed by the attendees. It was agreed that such housing is desirable and should be encouraged, and that not having a "downtown district" brought unique problems to the pursuit. Reg shared Putney's experiences in the area.

Discussion on the State's Ancient Roads initiative was tabled.

It was agreed that the group would next meet on Monday, June 12, 2006 at 7 PM at the church meeting space, and that the Conservation Committee would be invited to that meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kevin Ryan, Selectboard Clerk